

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-07

NSCE-00 NEA-14 /044 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS: TRHANSON:SM

APPROVED BY S/PRS - PAUL HARE

S/S - WHLUERS

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O 160129Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 101842

TOSEC 679

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: MAY 15, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: WEDNESDAY MORNING PAPERS REPORT SNAG IN NEGOTIATIONS, LEAD WITH TALKS IN "HOLDING PATTERN." SOME PLAY GIVEN TO HAK QUOTE "I SNATCHED DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY." AFTERNOON WIRES GIVE EXCLUSIVE PLAY TO TERRORIST INCIDENT AT MA'ALOT.

1. GWERTZMAN ARTICLE PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD NYT REPEATS LEAD OF YESTERDAY'S WIRES UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER'S TALKS SHOW NO PROGRESS: SECRETARY ALLOWS 36 HOURS MORE FOR ISRAELI-SYRIAN COMPROMISE ON GOLAN." SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS SITUATION "ESSENTIALLY IN A HOLDING PATTERN," WELL-PLACED ISRAELI OFFICIALS DOUBT ISRAEL WILL CHANGE POSITION SIGNIFICANTLY. GWERTZMAN REPORTS HAK'S SCHEDULE CLEARLY THROWN OFF IMPLYING PROBABLE RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH SOME PROGRESS RECORDED BUT COMPLETE AGREEMENT SEVERAL WEEKS AWAY. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS TALKS COULD GO EITHER WAY, MAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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DIFFICULTY GOLAN DEMARCATION LINE, YET EVEN IF NO AGREEMENT

THIS WEEK "THE SITUATION WON'T BLOW UP." GWERTZMAN FEELS HAK'S REPUTATION AS A "MAGICIAN" WILL BE TARNISHED IF HE LEAVES MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT FULL AGREEMENT. ON PAGE 12 GWERTZMAN HAS REPORT OF VISIT TO SYRIAN FRONT LINES "SYRIA GIVES PRESS A FRONT-LINE TOUR: 14 US REPORTERS RUN INTO

2. BERGER PAGE 26 STORY "KISSINGER MISSION IN "HOLDING PATTERN" LEADS WITH SENIOR US OFFICIALS' ASSESSMENT THAT REMAINING CONCESSIONS REPRESENT SERIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS TO BOTH SIDES. BERGER REPORTS LESS OPTIMISM IN HAK PARTY TODAY THAT DEAL CAN BE COMPLETED THIS TRIP. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS HAK WILL KNOW BY THURSDAY WHETHER HE WILL STAY ON THROUGH END OF WEEK OR SUSPEND EFFORTS FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS. BERGER FEELS ASSAD HAS GONE LONG WAY TOWARD DRUMMING UP DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR SETTLEMENT AND IT COULD BE TOO LATE FOR HIM TO TURN BACK. BERGER ACCOUNT OF VISIT TO SYRIAN FRONT LINES APPEARS PAGE 27 UNDER HEAD "VISIT TO THE GOLAN: HARVEST GOES ON IN RAIN OF SHELLS."

3. JHABVALA REPORTS IN PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD STORY "KISSINGER STILL FACES DEADLOCK" HAK UNABLE TO BREAK DEADLOCK, WILL DECIDE WITHIN 36 HOURS WHETHER TO CONTINUE EFFORT. PIX OF HAK WITH CAPTIONED HAK REMARK TO DINITZ UPON ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL: "I SNATCHED DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY." JHABVALA REPORTS HAK IN GRIM MOOD, NOTES FACT THAT IN DAMASCUS DEPARTURE STATEMENT HAK FOR FIRST TIME DID NOT MENTION PROGRESS MADE, SAYS HAK MAY LEAVE ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL BEHIND TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH BOTH SIDES IF TALKS SUSPENDED. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS DEADLOCK IN REALM OF DOMESTIC POLITICS OF BOTH SIDES AND NEGOTIATIONS HAVE REACHED POINT WHERE OUTSIDERS LIKE EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA CANNOT HELP.

4. SAIKOWSKI HAS PAGE 1 PIECE CSM UNDER HEAD "CLIMAX NEAR IN MIDEAST TALKS: SYRIA-ISRAEL TEST KISSINGER'S HARDEST." REPEATS LEAD CARRIED ELSEWHERE IN TUESDAY, GIVING THREE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS OUTLINED BY SENIOR US OFFICIAL. REPORTS HAK DEPARTURE FROM DAMASCUS LATE TUESDAY WITH NO AGREEMENT. SAIKOWSKI SAYS HAK FACING TOUGHEST NEGOTIATIONS OF HIS CAREER AND DOES NOT KNOW HIMSELF HOW THEY WILL TURN OUT.

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5. O'LEARY ARTICLE "SHUTTLE TALKS ENDANGERED" APPEARS PAGE 1 OF STAR WITH PIX OF HAK AND EBAN BEFORE NEWSMEN IN JERUSALEM. O'LEARY REPORTS HAK HEADS FOR DAMASCUS TODAY IN LAST-DITCH TRY TO ACHIEVE BREAKTHROUGH, BUT MA'ALOT INCIDENT MAY MEAN HE HAS LOST ANY CHANCE OF OBTAINING FURTHER CONCESSIONS FROM ISRAEL. REFERS TO SPECULATION THAT HAK MAY NOT LEAVE THE AREA UNTIL MA'ALOT DRAMA COMES TO END SINCE ISRAELIS LIKELY TO RETALIATE AGAINST TERRORIST

BASES IN LEBANON. O'LEARY SAYS HAK REMARK "I HAVE SNATCHED DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY" INDICATES RUEFULNESS AND SENSE OF FUTILITY IN FACE OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS. REPORTS HAK WANTS AGREEMENT DUE TO EARLIER FAILURE TO ACHIEVE "CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH" IN MOSCOW, DOMESTIC TURMOIL AND SIEGE MENTALITY IN ADMINISTRATION, PERSONAL PRESTIGE CONSIDERA-

TIONS, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO DEFUSE GOLAN FRONT. O'LEARY REPORT ON GOLAN VISIT ON PAGE 18 UNDER HEAD "VIEW THROUGH A SYRIAN ARTILLERY SIGHT."

6. AFTERNOON AP SCHWEID LEADS WITH HAK STRONG CONDEMNATION OF TERRORIST ATTACK (INCLUDES HAK STATEMENT) BUT VOW TO CONTINUE MIDDLE EAST PEACE MISSION. SAYS HAK BELIEVES "BOTH SIDES MOVING TOWARD EACH OTHER AND NOT MOVING AWAY." IF HAK WANTS EXCUSE TO LET BOTH SIDES RECONSIDER HARD LINE POSITIONS, HE NOW HAS ONE; COULD RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR FEW WEEKS TO LET SITUATION COOL.

7. (UPI) NO LANDRY BYLINE TODAY. ALL STORIES OUT OF AREA GIVE FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF MA'ALOT INCIDENT, INCLUDING HAK STATEMENT OF CONDEMNATION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARAMILITARY FORCES, JOURNALISTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, TOSEC 679, NEWS  
**MEDIA COMMENTS**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE101842  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TRHANSON:SM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740120-0365  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740542/aaaabkyb.tel  
**Line Count:** 139  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN PRS  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 NOV 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by martinjw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: MAY 15, 1974 FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PFOR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
**To:** JERUSALEM  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005